E-ENTERPRISE
for the environment
Modernizing the business of environmental protection

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Tribal Water Quality Data Roadmap project is aimed at helping tribes submit their water quality data to the Water Quality eXchange (WQX). Using a new Excel-based tool, a tribe answers six questions about its existing and future work. Based on its answers, the tool generates a customized guide in rich text format (.rtf) that will guide the tribe in its efforts to document and share water quality monitoring data.

The tool can be found on the WQX/STORET webpage at https://epa.gov/storet under "E-Enterprise Tribal Roadmap for WQX Submissions."

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Tribal Water Quality Data Roadmap
"Data is our legacy."

The seed for this project was planted by tribes at the 2015 Tribal Exchange Network (EN) Conference. In 2015, 138 tribes out of 271 nationally submitted their water quality data via the EN to the Water Quality eXchange (WQX). The project was an effort to help Clean Water Act Section 106-eligible tribes, which are interested in doing so, submit their data to WQX.

GOALS

1. Recognize that sound water quality data are the legacy of any tribal program and assist in ensuring that these data form the basis of environmental decisions.
2. Create a roadmap for tribes to develop and deliver water quality monitoring data even during times of staff turnover.
3. Help tribes conceptualize and leverage the opptunities presented by E-Enteprise for the Environment.

RESOURCES

Using a joint governance approach consisting of tribal and U.S. EPA regional partners, the team developed a simple tool in Microsoft Excel that can be used by the tribes.

OUTCOMES

The Roadmap project sparked not only the development of a Roadmap tool but also the creation of new, easy-to-understand WQX training documents and videos. The joint governance model provided tribes and U.S. EPA the opportunity to work together to address a common need. The Roadmap tool was released in August 2016 on the WQX webpage.

In addition to creating a custom guide, the tool calculates summary statistics and plots graphs of a tribe's existing data in WQX (see below). This provides tribes an opportunity to:

- View their previous submissions;
- Be more consistent in reporting water quality results; and
- Identify quality assurance issues in data to improve data quality.